GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:26
ANSWERED ON:06.07.2004
NCERT BOOKS
Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a three. member committee of eminent historians to review the existing NCERT school history books along with other subjects;

(b) if so, the details thereof along witli the terms and conditions of the committee;

(c) whether the existing history books would be studied by the students for the academic year 2004-05;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to protect students` future in view of changes in. the textbooks?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE REPLY TO LOK SABRA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 BY SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN AND SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY REGARDING NCERT BOOKS DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06TH JULY, 2004.

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir, for the review of history textbooks of NCERT. The panel comprises three eminent historians, namely, Prof. S. Settar, currently Dr. S. Radhakrishnan visiting Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore and formerly the Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research, Prof. J.S. Grewal, former Vice-Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University and former Director of Indian Institute of Advanced Studies at Shimla and Prof. Baron De., an eminent historian of modern India and first Director of the Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute for Asian Studies, Kolkata. The terms of reference of the panel is given at Annexure-I.

(c) to (e) : The Government will take a decision after due examination of the recommendations of the panel.

Annexure-I

Terms of Reference of the panel of historians constituted for review of history text books of NCERT

1. To do a quick review of history text books ofNCERT by a panel of eminent historians of impeccable credentials, to suggest what needs to be done in the short term. If they so recommend, the Government will direct the NCERT and the CBSE to issue appropriate directions to the teachers to transact the curriculum as per those recommendations.

2. In particular, the recommendations should be for removing distorted and communally biased portions and for inclusion of short passages which will fill in the gaps that some of these books are supposed to be having or could develop after the removal of the aforesaid mentioned passages.

3. The three distinguished historians have been requested by the Government to submit their recommendations at the earliest so that the interventions could be made, if necessary, as early as possible, in the academic session that has already started in some schools in the country.

4. Joint Secretary (School Education) in the Ministry of Human Resource Development will provide secretariat and logistics support to this group.